

REMARKS

Claims 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clerc (EP 0 538 796) in view of Wei et al. (“Wide Viewing Angle Polymer Stabilized Homeotropically Aligned (PSHA)”). Claims 12 and 13 are both amended herein, and Applicants further traverse the outstanding rejection at least in light of these amendments. Neither of the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests to form a linear structure of a bent shape and a slit of a bent shape on at least one of the pair of electrodes across the liquid crystal layer, as featured in independent claims 12 and 13 of the present invention, as amended.

The Examiner correctly acknowledges that Clerc fails to teach or suggest any polymer structure for the disclosed liquid crystal device. It can also be seen in the Clerc reference that there is no teaching or suggestion to provide any linear structure or slit on an electrode on a substrate, or more particularly, a structure or slit having a bent shape. The Examiner cites only Wei for teaching the use of a polymer resin in a liquid crystal device, but Wei also fails to teach or suggest a structure or a slit on the electrodes having a bent shape. In fact, Wei even teaches away from such features, as in the present invention.

Wei does teach that its gibbous lattice structure has a linear shape (see Fig. 2), yet Wei remains silent as to whether any portion or portions of the lattice structure are formed on the electrodes. Regardless, Wei affirmatively teaches that the lattice structure is formed of a symmetric, regular shape, and the structure is not shown to have any bent shape

on any electrode. Wei even teaches away from these structural features by requiring its lattice to be "symmetric" and "square." (Page 2, first partial paragraph; page 3, last full paragraph). Accordingly, Applicants submit that the outstanding rejection of independent claims 12 and 13 has been overcome at least in light of the amendments to these claims.

New claims 14-27 have been added herein to further recite additional features of the invention. All of claims 14-27 depend directly or indirectly from one of independent claims 12 and 13, and should therefore be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to the respective base claim. Support for these new claims can be found in the several embodiments shown in the present drawings. Entry, consideration on the merits, and allowance of new claims 14-27 are respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application, including claims 12-27, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if a further interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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